IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the case of heating the work held apart from the heating surface, if the Rmax value of the heating surface exceeds 200 μm, a turbulence of gas flow is created in the space between the work and the heating surface so that the heat is locally built up to cause a temperature distribution in the work. On the other hand, if the Rmax value is less than 0.05μm, the temperature distribution of the heating surface is directly reflected on the work by radiant heat so that a temperature distribution is created. Thus, the range of Rmax = 0.05 to 200 μm is a characteristic range of surface roughness suited for the heating mode in which the work is held apart from the heating surface and heated in a gaseous heat transfer medium.